Circular Letter #72.

Dec. 4, 1922

Letter writing between Portorrican
and Continental children.

GOVERNMENT OF PORTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
SAN JUAN

ADDRESS ALL OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION SAN JUAN, P. R.

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To Supervisors and Teachers

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Let us put in touch the Portorrican and the Continental children. How can this be done? There are many good ways, but here is one which I think is splendid:

Have each class-room in the Island, from the fifth grade up, exchange letters with a a corresponding class-room somewhere in the States; each child should write a letter, with no more than say one hundred words of text matter, and all the letters of the room should be sent together by the teacher to the Principal of some public school in the Continent, with the request that the papers be distributed among the children of a corresponding grade there. The letters should be started with the salutation "My dear Continental Brother (or Sister)", and topics of course should be appropriate. The interest of the child could easily be aroused by dealing with lively matters, such as the manner of living in their countries, their respective games and amusements, postal stamp trading, interesting books they read, etc.

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Do not let "lack of time" or any similar complaint lessen your interest in this work. Treat the inspection of these short letters as composition correcting. Remember that, if the child becomes interested in corresponding with his or her unknown friend, much will be accomplished toward the solution of our English problem, and great advancement will be made along the desired fraternization and understanding between the two peoples.

Very truly yours,

Juan B. HUYKE,

Commissioner of Education.